

ORNITHOLOGICAL LITERATURE

VOICES OF NEW WORLD NIGHTBIRDS. Record # ARA-6. Produced and narrated by John William Hardy. Principal recordist, Ben B. Coffey, Jr. Produced in the Bioacoustical Laboratory of the Florida State Museum. ARA Records, 1615 N.W. 14th Ave., Gainesville, Florida 32611, 1980. One LP record in jacket. \$7.00.—For cogent commentary and background on this series see the reviews by Stuart Keith (Wilson Bull. 88:525-526, 1976; 90:148-150, 1978).

Presumably I was asked to review this effort because my wife and I are among the comparatively few who have engaged in the "tedious work . . . at what for most of us are 'unnatural' times for concentrated, accurate endeavor," involving "considerable danger . . . and immense patience" in efforts to extend our knowledge beyond "mysterious . . . evidence that some birds out there are doing something" (jacket text). Our efforts (for part see Living Bird 10:170-184, 1971) involved only Chuck-will's-widows (*Caprimulgus carolinensis*) and Whip-poor-wills (*C. vociferus*) in tame Kansas. We rarely found the work tedious, however, and for us the dangers were limited to inconveniencing the odd copperhead and, once, nearly netting a deputy sheriff on his way to an accident. But we did learn how difficult the work can be and I am awestruck by the amount that underlies this pioneer compilation (30+ contributions by Coffey, the rest by a long series of others, especially Paul Schwartz, George Reynard, Joe T. Marshall, Jr., and Hardy).

Therein appear vocalizations attributed, at least tentatively, to about 45 species of owls and 30 of caprimulgiforms. Hardy tells me that about 35 of these are presented here for the first time on a commercially available disc. Most, if not all, are basic territorial "songs" or epigamic vocalizations. Since these night birds communicate mainly by sound, probably all employ considerable vocabularies, as we found for the Kansas goatsuckers. Although vocalizations other than advertising song are now known for at least a few species, Hardy did not use these, probably because of space limitations.

Perhaps also for this reason, the record lacks the extensive spoken commentary with which Stuart Keith earlier took issue (at length notable for a discourse on succinctness). The record would have been enhanced by written commentary more extensive than the jacket will accommodate, but this will mainly concern those of us who are laypersons concerning the esoterica of nightbird systematics. Space, again, may have prevented identification of some of the fascinating sounds that appear as background.

Acoustical quality ranges from good to superb, perhaps depending somewhat upon distance. I was impressed by how many owls and goatsuckers sound much alike, respectively, and by how consistently the sound-alikes are allopatric. It is not far from this to the notions that quite a few of these sounds must be primitive for the groups, hence without systematic information content at the alpha level, and that few patterns suggest the shared derivation that would convey such information (*Caprimulgus carolinensis-C. rufus* may be one of these).

The first of two cuts given as "*Caprimulgus parvulus*" belongs to a population now regarded as a distinct species, *C. anthonyi* (Schwartz, Condor 70:223-227, 1978; Bock and Farrand, Am. Mus. Novit. 2703:25, 1980).

This record represents a heroic collective effort and, besides being of considerable value, provides very pleasant and often amusing listening. Hardy is again to be congratulated.—ROBERT M. MENGEL.

THE MOLT OF SCRUB JAYS AND BLUE JAYS IN FLORIDA. By G. Thomas Bancroft and Glen E. Woolfenden. Ornithological Monographs No. 29, American Ornithologists' Union, Washington, D.C., 1982:vii + 51 pp., 15 text figs., 16 tables. \$8.00 (\$6.50 to AOU members).—